

vegetation succession insidiously destroys the habitat. I feel it is important to put this clear-cut instance on record.

Fortunately the Dingy Skipper still survives on coastal shingle in Moray to the west, while colonies of Northern Brown Argus flourish further inland in Banffshire, on limestone around Tomintoul. There are twenty or more Small Blue colonies along the Banffshire coast where natural erosion of the cliffs maintains suitable conditions for the foodplant, Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*.

I thank Bill Slater for his help and input. — ROY LEVERTON, Whitewells, Ordiquhill, Cornhill, Banffshire AB45 2HS.

***Cryptocephalus bipunctatus* (L.) (Col.: Chrysomelidae) in Perthshire**

In April 1999, a male and female (*in copula*) of the splendid black and orange beetle *Cryptocephalus bipunctatus* (L.) were found on the south-facing cliffs of Kinnoull Hill, Perthshire (O.S. grid reference NO1322; VC 89). They were kindly identified for me by Magnus Sinclair. On 12 August 2000, an obviously gravid female of the same species was found at the same place. These seem to be the most northerly British records for the species to date. The only previously published Scottish records are from the south-west of Scotland, namely Kirkcudbrightshire (VC 73) (*Annals Scot. Nat. Hist.* **1892**: 112) and Wigtownshire (VC 74) (1973. *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **109**: 112). The current discovery is unlikely to be a recent colonisation as a decade ago, on 9 June 1990, I found the case-bearing larva of a *Cryptocephalus* species on the same part of Kinnoull Hill. It was in short turf near a small larch *Larix* tree. The case was about six millimetres long and superficially resembled a rabbit faecal pellet or the leaf-bearing nodule off a larch twig. It could conceivably have belonged to the present species, but attempts to rear it failed.— KEITH P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

***Cimbex connatus* (Schrank) (Hym.: Cimbicidae) at a Devon supermarket car park**

Cimbex connatus is the rarest of the three British *Cimbex* species. It had been reported from several locations in southern England in the early part of the twentieth century, including Devon, where it was last reported as larvae on alder at Leighan Valley in 1947 (Benson, 1951. Hymenoptera: Symphyta Section (a), *Handbooks for the identification of British insects*, **6** (2a)). After that, a lack of records led to the belief that it had become extinct in Britain. In 1997, a female was found near the River Nadder near Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire (Edmunds & Springate, 1998. *Br. J. ent. nat. Hist.* **11**: 65-68).

The presence of this scarce sawfly at Barton, near Torquay, Devon (O. S., grid reference SX 907 666), was drawn to my attention in early October 2000 when larvae were sent to me for identification. They were feeding on alder (*Alnus* sp.) leaves on trees that had been planted for landscaping purposes around a car park for